



Pupil Premium Support Programme

Supporting under-resourced students with
preparing for grammar school entrance tests
and Key Stage 2 learning

The programme

Narrowing the educational divide with KS2 learning and 11+ exam preparation support for under-resourced pupils

To widen access and encourage social mobility, [Atom Learning](#) and GSHA have partnered. We are working with grammar schools across the country to provide all KS2 students who are eligible for Pupil Premium (not just potential grammar school applicants) with free Atom Home accounts, giving them access to online learning and 11+ preparation materials.

This programme is designed to help children consolidate and master Key Stage 2 learning objectives, familiarise them with the topics they may see on their 11+ examination and set them up for success in Key Stage 3.

Atom and GSHA's shared goal is to ensure that every child, regardless of background, leaves primary school having mastered the Key Stage 2 curriculum and, where relevant, goes into their 11+ feeling confident and able to show their full potential.

All children eligible for Pupil Premium will be given free access to Atom Home (normally £575.90 per year).



Why have we set this programme up?

Grammar schools are open to pupils from all backgrounds, with a proud history of elevating outcomes for disadvantaged students.

But despite encouragement from both primary and secondary schools to parents that the best method of entrance test preparation is mastery of the national curriculum, the most common method of preparing for the 11+ is still intensive coaching and private tuition.

This environment ends up providing some children with a comparative advantage, and ultimately widens the educational divide.

Our goal is to combat this by providing families who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford them with high-quality, reputable test preparation and learning materials. Atom Learning is built around the national curriculum with added resources for reasoning, and is designed to encourage regular, short, focused learning, with the belief that this is the best route for test preparation and long-term success at secondary school.

Whatever a child's future aspirations, we hope this programme will be an enjoyable and effective way of supporting KS2 progress and increases in attainment.



What is Atom Home?

Atom Home is an online learning and exam preparation website for ages 7-11. It is built around national curriculum frameworks, with additional material for reasoning.

Atom Home gives children access to:

- 11+ practice questions across English, maths, verbal reasoning and non-verbal reasoning
- KS2 practice questions across English, maths and science
- Learning resources and video tutorials
- Engaging, interactive learning challenges and puzzles
- Exam practice and mock tests

Atom Home is designed to build children's confidence with Key Stage 2 learning objectives and, where relevant, improve exam technique by familiarising them with the style of questions in grammar school entrance tests.

It is an engaging, child-centric learning platform, aimed at increasing engagement and motivation with learning.



Case study:

King Edward VI Foundation & Atom Learning partnership

“Revolutionising access to grammar schools”

At the end of 2023, Atom Learning partnered with the King Edward VI Foundation, which consists of six grammar schools. The partnership aims to level the playing field for pupil premium students hoping to gain entry into academically selective grammar schools within Birmingham.

We provide 1500 of their pupil premium applicants with free access to Atom Home to directly tackle the educational divide, help these students build confidence ahead of their 11+, and set them up for success at secondary. This partnership represents an investment of technology worth more than £1.2 million.

This partnership simultaneously tackles the two issues that result in the persistently low representation of disadvantaged children in grammar schools: the number of children applying for grammars, and preparation for the test. Through primary school outreach programmes and spreading the word about this provision, we increase the number of families who consider grammar school a viable option. Through the provision of Atom Home to disadvantaged families, we equip pupils with learning resources to help them master KS2 learning objectives, get familiar with the structure of 11+ questions, and feel confident about sitting the test.

[You can read more about the partnership here.](#)

Jodh Dhesi, Chief Executive Officer at the King Edward VI Foundation:

“We are delighted to be partnering with Atom Learning to launch our new initiative, designed to help children familiarise themselves with the grammar school entrance test. The Foundation is proud of the pioneering work we have done to support children from low-income backgrounds to access our grammar schools. This new platform takes our support offer to the next level, and we are excited about the impact it could have.”

How do students access the support?

We have designed this process to be as simple as possible for families and schools to reduce barriers to access:

1. Parents and carers whose children are eligible for pupil premium fill in a form on the grammar school's website.
2. Their primary school will receive an email from Atom Learning asking the school to verify the child's eligibility for pupil premium.
3. Once verified, Atom Learning will set the Atom Home account up for each child, and share login information with the parent via email.

Contact

If you have any questions or would like to find out more about Atom Learning, please email flo@atomlearning.co.uk

Flo Simpson, Chief Operating Officer at Atom Learning:

"At Atom, our mission is to make exceptional education available to all and we're delighted to partner with the Grammar School Heads Association to bring our learning content and technology to more under-resourced families across the UK. We look forward to working in partnership with GSHA to widen access to grammar schools, and support all Pupil Premium children to build lasting confidence with their learning that will carry them into KS3 and beyond. I'm delighted to have seen the impact this Programme is having on students across the country, and look forward to supporting more families through our partnership with GSHA."

Mark Fenton, CEO at GSHA:





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GRAMMAR SCHOOL**



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**THE NORTON
KNATCHBULL
SCHOOL**



**The
JUDD
School**



**The Rochester
Grammar School**



**HOLCOMBE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL**



**Caldaly Grange
Grammar School**

Thank you for doing this for Riley it will mean so much to her and the family.

As a school we are in an area of high affluence and the majority of children have an 11+ tutor. Your service will mean our disadvantaged pupils who are not able to access tutor support will have an equal opportunity to pass the 11+ where they may have previously missed out on a grammar place despite having the academic ability to deserve a place.

Sally McCarville, Assistant Headteacher, Kings Hill Primary School

This partnership with Atom is about removing barriers:

We are equipping disadvantaged children to thrive in their education, helping to ensure that they do not miss out on opportunities. While families do not have to be aspiring to selective secondary schools to take part in the programme, we hope that it will help further broaden access to grammar schools, making them even more socially representative.

Neil Enright, Headteacher, QE Barnet

